

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. RES. 364

Supporting the designation of September 17, 2021, as “National Physician Suicide Awareness Day” to raise awareness of, and promote a national discussion about, physician suicide and to reduce the stigma of mental health issues.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 14, 2021

Ms. STABENOW (for herself, Mr. KAINE, and Mr. REED) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

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## RESOLUTION

Supporting the designation of September 17, 2021, as “National Physician Suicide Awareness Day” to raise awareness of, and promote a national discussion about, physician suicide and to reduce the stigma of mental health issues.

Whereas, prior to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID–19) pandemic, numerous health care workers suffered from work-related burnout and depression;

Whereas physicians work under intense pressure and are exposed to trauma on the job;

Whereas the suicide rate among—

(1) male physicians is 1.41 times higher than the general male population; and

(2) female physicians is even more pronounced, being 2.27 times higher than the general female population;

Whereas physicians, nurses, and allied health providers serving on the frontlines of the COVID–19 pandemic are under a critically high degree of stress and burnout;

Whereas shortages of personal protective equipment, difficult working conditions, burdensome administrative tasks, long hours, grief over losing patients, and watching the families of patients suffer added a layer of extreme stress for many frontline workers;

Whereas mental health and physical health are equally important components of overall health;

Whereas there are structural barriers in place that discourage self-care and mental health help-seeking behaviors among physicians; and

Whereas a day of public awareness and education campaigns to shine a light on the tragedy of physician suicide is held on September 17 each year: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2               (1) supports the goals of National Physician  
3       Suicide Awareness Day to bring national attention  
4       to the mental health crisis affecting physicians in  
5       the United States;

6               (2) dedicates a day of reflection to honor the  
7       memory of physicians who have died by suicide;

8               (3) recognizes the need for greater research  
9       into understanding and addressing the issue of phy-

1       sician suicide, including the barriers to treatment,  
2       help-seeking behaviors to address burnout, and men-  
3       tal care options to prevent physician suicide; and

4               (4) encourages the President to issue a procla-  
5       mation calling on the people of the United States to  
6       observe National Physician Suicide Awareness Day  
7       with appropriate awareness and educational activi-  
8       ties.

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